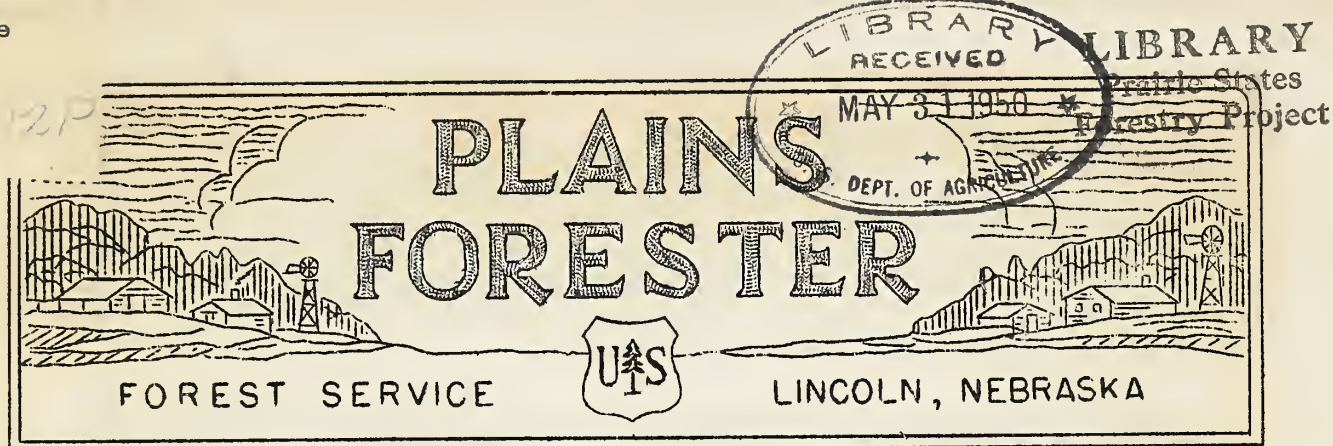


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August - September - 1939

A GOOD COMMITTEEMAN IS SOMETHING TO BEHOLD!

That a township committeeman can do a world of good, if he is fired with enthusiasm and his efforts are directed properly, was never more forcefully illustrated than in Yoder township, in the Hutchinson, Kansas, District, this year.

A number of the township's inhabitants are Amish people, who are very slow to accept new ideas, and none of the various farm programs such as Farm Bureau or ACP had ever made a go of organizing them. With only hope in our hearts, however, we selected Dave Yoder, a successful Amish farmer and highly respected in the community, to represent the Amish people on the township committee. He didn't seem to "spark" and after a month of effort our hopes for his cooperation began to diminish.

But Mr. Yoder fooled us. He had been talking busily about shelterbelts with his neighbors, and one day he sent for the subdistrict officer and an Amish farmer in Yoder township signed for a shelterbelt. After that it was easy -- Mr. Yoder lined up cooperators and the subdistrict officer attended to the details coincident with signing of the agreements. Eighteen cooperators signed for approximately eight miles of shelterbelts.

It would be less happy if the story stopped there, but it didn't, because Mr. Yoder likes to finish what he starts. He had acquired an interest and sense of responsibility for all the shelterbelts in his area and during the rest of the year made it his business to see that his neighbors did the right thing at the right time. We merely told Mr. Yoder what should be done preparatory to planting, and he made arrangements among his people with the result that all sites were very well prepared and subsoiled, and planting went ahead without a hitch. During the cultivation season he has seen to it that the shelterbelts received timely cultivations, even going so far as personally to help a neighbor with hand-hoeing. Only once, during harvest time, did Mr. Yoder ask for help; he requested that we hand-hoe three or four shelterbelts in his territory because he was ashamed of the condition they were in. Only one crew day was spent in cleaning up all four shelterbelts.

Mr. Yoder already has his head full of negotiation prospects for 1940 and is going ahead to get them signed up. I only hope his good work extends throughout 1940.

- William V. Catlow, Kans.

RECREATION AREA FINE PLACE FOR CONTACTS

With the Towner Nursery site, the North Dakota unit also got from Region Nine 80 acres of hardwood timber adjacent to approximately a mile of winding river, which had been set aside for recreation in a part of North Dakota where recreation facilities are notoriously scarce. It is 350 miles from Minnesota and 60 miles from our own Turtle Mountains, and trees are a welcome sight to relieve the monotony of the prairie landscape. The local citizens really needed a place where they could go for a day's outing.

Recreation funds were transferred from Region Nine last year and now that 80-acre plot has picnic tables for 350 people, swings, sand boxes, climbing frames and teeter-totters for the children, a horseshoe court for the men, and plenty of room for four softball games at a time. (We have four games going simultaneously during a Future Farmers picnic.) There is fair fishing and plenty of room for hiking, while there is plenty of shade for the sedentary visitors. Drinking water has been piped to the area, the Federated Women's Clubs of North Dakota having donated \$300 worth of pipe which the Forest Service installed.

So far as I know, this is the only recreation venture of the PSFP, but we have an excellent opportunity here to reach a lot of people who know nothing of the Project. Last year, with the area only partially developed, 1,666 persons registered as visitors. Since April this year, 1,323 have registered, including people from 16 states and 2 Canadian provinces, and studies reveal that not more than one-fourth of the visitors bother to register. Church groups, farmer organizations, Boy Scouts, political gatherings, neighborhood groups and family gatherings all enjoy the area, each visitor having the opportunity to visit the nursery adjacent to the entrance to the recreation tract and acquaint himself with our Project.

The direct value to the PSFP of this development may be hard to measure, but the indirect benefits in good will towards the Forest Service and its goal of the "greatest good to the greatest number in the long run" are great.

- O. H. Patten, N.Dak.

WELL, WHAT SHOULD ONE EXPECT?

Another Government agency requested bids to cover the sale by it of two old sewing machines. Two bids were received, one for .95.25 for each machine and the other \$7.55 each. The contracting officer noticed the big difference between the two bid prices and called attention thereto. The company that had bid the larger price alleged that it mistook the request to buy from the Government to sell thereto, and asked that its bid be changed because a mistake had been made. The Comptroller General ruled that inasmuch as the error was not alleged by the bidder until after its bid had been accepted the price must stand. And it did.

- Reg. 3 "Daily Bulletin"

KANSAS SHELTERBELTERS MARRIED

Orval Jess, Shelterbelt Assistant, located at Medicine Lodge, Kansas, was married July 19 to Miss LaDonna H. McClain at Albany, Oregon, according to word received here. After the ceremony they visited the San Francisco World's Fair, Salt Lake City, and other points of interest in the West. Best wishes to Jess and his bride.

A very beautiful ceremony which united in marriage Robert G. Cameron and Miss Reba Miller was held on Sunday afternoon, September 3, at the Westminister House, Manhattan, Kansas. "Bob" is the Forest Service officer in charge of one of the Hutchinson subdistricts, and prior to her marriage Miss Miller was Secretary to Vice President S. A. Nock of Kansas State College. They plan on making their home in Newton, Kansas.

- Kansas

LOCALIZING ILLUSTRATIONS

We have been telling audiences and farmer friends that shelterbelts keep soil from blowing, help to prevent seed or small seedlings in fields from being blown out, protect crops from hot winds, produce posts and fuel and other wood products, and protect livestock, buildings, gardens, orchards, and so forth.

These statements, however, would be much more effective if we could say, for instance, at a community meeting in Caddo County that "Bill Jones near Hinton, and you all know Bill, said that a 20-acre field of cotton on the north of an old grove of black locust and mulberry did not require any resowing while an unprotected field had to be resown twice to get a stand, due to seed blowing out or plants being covered by drifting sand. He uses an average of 90 to 100 fence posts each year, and 10 to 12 cords of wood for fuel, all obtained from his grove. The posts and fuel, if he had to buy them, would have cost over \$60.00 a year. He also said that in 1936 the crop on the protected field netted him \$7.50 per acre more than the crops on the rest of the field, and that hot winds surely ruined the crops on unprotected fields that year. He stated that this grove, on an average, increases his net income at least \$200 a year, and this coming spring he plans to plant a half-mile shelterbelt along his south line because he is convinced of the value of trees."

During their daily contacts with farmers, our subdistrict officers are now securing a great deal of worthwhile information of this nature which is to be compiled by the districts for their use. This will include the following: General testimonials on the values of trees or belts; crop yields on protected and unprotected fields; number of posts the average farmer uses and the prices; amount of fuel used and its value; the other products that can be secured from a tree plantation.

As to the last item, I have started compiling a list of useful items that can come from tree belts, and hope that others may add to it. Here it is: Fence posts, telephone posts, gin posts, fuel and kindling, straw or brush shade for stock, culverts, foot bridges, corduroy roads, cattle guards, props for fruit trees and clotheslines, tepee poles, repair parts for farm implements and equipment, rolling pins, ladders, whips, grape trellis, cyclone cellar props, single and double-trees and wagon repairs, wind shelter for chicken yard or garden, bean and tomato stakes, garden supports, baskets and wickerware, rustic cradles and beds, water troughs, repair parts for various tools and small equipment, fishing poles, oars, rustic furniture, benches, chairs, hammocks, arbors, trellis, bows and arrows, croquet sets, slingshots, vaulting poles, javelins, gun stocks, ramrods, swings and tooters, doll furniture, rustic souvenirs and playthings, little boats, bark whistles.

- Max Pfaender, Okla.

NEW SOIL SAMPLER DEVELOPED

A novel soil sampler, inexpensive and easily made, is used at the Fremont Nursery for speedy determination of soil moisture conditions at depths to three feet. It is tubular and extracts a 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch core of each from the desired depth so that the approximate amount of soil moisture can be determined readily. One should not attempt to get longer than 6-inch cores at one bite because of the possibility of jamming the barrel when longer cores are taken.

The sampler was made primarily for use in conifer seed beds where a shovel or spade would disturb too many trees, but it has proved to be equally useful anywhere in the nursery. A diagram, specifications and additional information regarding the soil sampler will be furnished on request to the Nebraska State Office.

Frequently we have found apparently sufficient moisture in the top 10 or 12 inches of soil, while the moisture supply for an equal depth beneath that layer may be below the wilting point. This is often true on the higher points in the nursery just after irrigation and it has been found that a second irrigation may send the moisture down deeper with the use of less water and in a shorter time than with one continuous irrigation. One can determine the depth of moisture penetration at the time of irrigation by pushing a rod, such as a wagon end-gate rod, into the ground. The rod will pass easily through the moist soil but will stop when dry soil is reached.

- M. K. Moines, Nebr.

SOMETIMES THE TAIL SEEMS TO WAG THE DOG

One of our major objectives is to secure seed from sturdy, well-formed specimens which are adapted to the general area in which the resulting seedlings are to be planted in shelterbelts. But there is another objective, not so clearly defined and of lesser importance; that is, to secure stock possessing besides those qualifications certain characteristics considered important by cooperators.

For example, some cooperators refuse to have mulberry trees in their shelterbelts because of the berries, others object to cottonwood trees because of the "flying cotton" in spring; ailanthus and black locust are discriminated against because they spread, green ash because of borers, and honey locust and osage orange because of their spines.

In most cases reasoning overcomes the prejudices, but in some cases other steps are necessary. Obviously, the easiest solution is to omit the species objected to, but such a procedure is not desirable because frequently those species are important to the success of the shelterbelts -- for instance, cottonwood and honey locust on very sandy soils, or osageorange for upland fine textured soils. On the other hand, there are several instances where the shortcomings of a species have been corrected. The objection to honeylocust has been overcome by raising only a thornless variety. Cultivation of adjoining cropland has reduced the spread hazard of black locust and ailanthus. Taking cuttings from male cottonwood and sterile mulberry specimens could eliminate some objections, and the selection of seed from specimens least susceptible to borer damage might remove the prejudice against green ash. And in some cases, proper care of the plantation to keep the trees in healthy condition would

overcome some shortcomings. We realize that cost is the limiting factor for future operations along this latter course, but we feel that further improvement can be made in some cases without materially increasing expenditures.

As our contribution toward meeting some of the problems, we suggest a thornless osageorange (*Toxylon pomiferum raymondii*). Until recently we had not heard of such "dehorned" specimens, but after a farmer's report to a subdistrict officer the matter was investigated. Not one, but a dozen thornless and near-thornless osageorange specimens were found in a single hedge row. They were growing on difficult ground and appeared to be somewhat larger and healthier than ordinary hedges growing beside them, but they have a poorer though larger crop of apples than the latter.

Such a variety of osageorange may be known to botanists; nevertheless, we believe the osageorange (shelterbelt phase) should be revolutionized as in the case of honeylocust. This observation may point the way as a starter. How about it, T. M.?

- Karl F. Ziegler, Kans.

TEXAS LIKES TO BE VISITED

Miss Edna Patchin, formerly of the Division of Fiscal Control of Region Six at Portland, Oregon, paid a visit to the Texas State Office early in August. Miss Patchin is retired after 28 years' service and is spending some time with her sister at Wichita Falls, and we hope to show her some of our better plantings before she returns to the West coast.

We certainly enjoyed Miss Patchin's visit. She reminisced with Hy Goldberg regarding many old Forest Service officers, and I came in for some good-natured joshing over the relative merits of Oregon mists and Texas sandstorms, because of my experiences in Portland, Oregon, and Longview, Washington, with the Long-Bell Lumber company.

The Texas office, for one, wishes that more Forest Service officers from the Regions would drop in.

- W. E. Webb, Tex.

CANADIAN CIRCULAR TELLS IT

In an abstract of a circular, "Hints on Dry Land Gardening," issued recently by the Canadian Department of Agriculture, I found the following:

"Gardening on dry land should be protected from wind by trees, shelterbelts and fences and attention should be paid to every detail that will aid in moisture conservation. Among many useful suggestions the following may be noted: 1. Hedges and trees should be employed to trap the snow on gardens. 2. Where soil drifting is not a problem, a considerable part of the garden should be planted on summer-fallow each year."

There are a number of other remarks about the best methods of gardening under dry land conditions, but the two which I have set down here are certainly in tune with shelterbelt practices, both in the protection of adjacent farm lands and the necessity for fallowing the previous winter in order to obtain abundant moisture on the areas planted.

- Ernest Wright, R. O.

LET'S RAISE MORE RABBITS LIKE THIS

A "hutch" is defined in Webster as a hovel, mean hut, box or bin. However, the modern trend defines it as a scientific house designed for the propagation of rabbits. "Hutch" in North Dakota is the nickname given to T. C. Hutchinson, our nurseryman at Enderlin. Anyway, we wish to report that our "Hutch" really raised a "bunny" last year that instead of eating trees will go far toward propagating and establishing them.

When "Hutch" took over the Enderlin Nursery (a commercial lease) in the spring of 1938, we were not planting trees in that territory and the local people knew little of the project objectives. As a matter of fact, a delegation of business men went to the WPA and complained because our nursery took men from a local gravel job and sewer project.

Immediately after "Hutch" took over he began to meet with the local people, the Kiwanians, Tri-County Association, etc., and told them our objectives, which "Hutch" was successful in selling to them as "their objectives." A community picnic at the timbered area adjacent to the nursery was attended by 2,000 persons who listened to Foresters' addresses on a public address system. Following this meeting the business men came to Jamestown and demanded a district but had to be content with a subdistrict.

This winter, funds being short, it appeared that it would be necessary to either cut out the Enderlin lease or move it where lease costs would be cheaper. We were paying at that time \$36 per net acre per year. A bug was slipped into the Enderlin business men's ears and as a result the "Enderlin Community Forest Association" was formed. A non-profit organization, stock was sold at \$25, \$50, \$100, etc. One hundred persons bought in; over \$3,000 was raised and the 140 acre tract which included the nursery site and wooded area was purchased. This organization leased the nursery site, including buildings (warehouse, office, etc.) to the Forest Service on a ten-year option at the sum of \$5 (count 'em) per year. In addition, Enderlin has the first Community Forest in the Plains.

We are quoting here part of the resolution included in the Enderlin lease and agreement:

"WITNESSETH that:

"WHEREAS, the LESSOR, a corporation, recognizes the stabilizing influence which the program, as conducted by the Prairie States Forestry Project of the Forest Service, will render and is rendering to their community in protecting fields from wind erosion, protecting crops, man, and beast from hot and cold winds, in providing habitation and shelter for game and insectivorous birds, and otherwise providing for farm security and social stabilization to present and future generations residing and who will reside in their community and State, and

"WHEREAS, the Lessor wishes to assist the Government in continuing and stabilizing the Farm Shelterbelt program, and

"WHEREAS, the Lessor owns a tract of land of approximately 140 acres, a part of which it intends to set aside as a Community Forest and Recreational Area, and

"WHEREAS, the Lessor wishes the Government to continue to operate the suitable portion of the above mentioned tract as a nursery for the production of forest tree seedlings to be used for cooperative farm forestry plantings, and

"WHEREAS, the Lessor wishes the Forest Service to furnish technical advice in connection with the management and development of the above mentioned Community Forest and Recreational Area:

"NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises set forth and in consideration of the benefits to the community which will result from the operation of the above nursery and the forestry program, and in consideration of the sum of five dollars (\$5.00) annually to be paid by the Government for the period April 21, 1939 to June 30, 1939, and for each fiscal year or fraction thereof....."

This support indicates that we have a good product. Let's all emulate "Hutch" and raise more rabbits like this one.

- L. A. Williams, N.Dak.

LETTER WRITING BY GOVERNMENT

"One of the most encouraging and notable developments in the field of public service during the past few years has been the increasing recognition by government agencies of the importance of letters in building good will and in helping to make the entire program of their agencies more effective," says James F. Grady and Milton Hall, of the Farm Credit Administration, in a short article, "When Government Writes to Its Citizens," in Public Opinion Quarterly (July). "In Federal, State, County and Municipal agencies, forward-looking officials are stressing the fact that letters are a major force in shaping citizens' attitudes toward their government. Since the citizen in dealing with his government seldom meets in personal interview with its agents, the letter becomes government's representative. While exact figures are not available the number of letters mailed daily by government agencies undoubtedly runs into millions. Of even greater significance in considering the effects of various forces upon the attitudes of the public is the fact that at least 90 percent of the contacts of government agencies with citizens are through letters. The effectiveness of the business of government, therefore, depends largely upon the effectiveness of its letters. And the taxpayer's impression of the quality of the service for which he is paying is determined by the kind of letters he receives...Many agencies are taking active and intelligent steps toward improvement. In the Federal Service, for example, the Farm Credit Administration, Home Owners' Loan Corporation, Farm Security Administration, Rural Electrification Administration, and others are carrying on successful training programs. These agencies recognize that a letter-writing training program, in addition to effecting economies and building good will, provides an excellent means of learning how well a man knows his job; and that such a program results not only in improving the quality of letters, but also in promoting the growth of employees. To supplement these training programs, educational institutions such as the School of Public Affairs of the American University and the School of Government of the University of Southern California are offering courses in government correspondence and related subjects....."

- Reg. 9 "Daily Contact"

ANOTHER FORESTER ENTERS THE LIST

Harold Swim has been passing out cigars, candy and smiles recently, the occasion being the arrival on September 2, of a son Thomas (Tommy) Harold. Mother, son and Dad are doing nicely.

-- Kansas

TRAFFIC HAZARD MAY BE EASILY ELIMINATED

Ziegler's article concerning the traffic hazard of shelterbelts extending to the section corners gives us something to think about. Of the three solutions he suggested -- stopping short of the intersection, planting only shrubs for 100 feet back from the intersection, or setting the belt back from the section line -- the last alternative is the only one which really meets the situation.

Since present traffic speed requires at least 300 feet clear vision each way, there would be a 600-foot gap in the wind barrier if the first alternative were followed. The second plan is essentially the same as the first, since any shrubs taller than four and one-half feet would have the same effect as if the full shelterbelt were brought to the intersection, and the effect would be about the same as if a gap were left so far as an effective shelterbelt is concerned.

The third method seems preferable and adds one more argument to those presented by the farmers in Merrick County, Nebraska, the majority of whom favored a basic pattern of belts a half-mile apart, but located one-quarter and three-quarters of a mile from the north or south section lines. Some of the arguments of those farmers for locating shelterbelts on the quarter-mile lines are that the farmer who invests land and labor in a shelterbelt gets both north and south protection from his trees whether his neighbor comes in on the program or not, that the trees are more free from the dust churned up by automobile traffic, that birds and other wildlife will inhabit the shelterbelts in larger numbers when they are away from traffic and there will be less shooting of pheasants from the roads. All of this is pretty sound logic, and the farmers felt that cutting of a quarter-section was not objectionable since a field a quarter of a mile wide is large enough for all tractor operations, and only one additional fence would be necessary to enclose the belt the same as on the section line, since they already fence interior field divisions to confine livestock to individual fields.

The Township Tree Committees could function admirably in determining the attitude of the farmers on such a plan for locating shelterbelts, and if the majority favor dividing their farms on the quarter and three-quarter mile lines there should be no objection to setting up such a basic pattern for the whole township.

- Carl A. Taylor, Nebr.

NO BRAGGING OR STRETCHING THE TAPE, YOU UNDERSTAND

We wouldn't brag, you understand, but just the same the Cheyenne sub-district in Oklahoma challenges the rest of the Project to show an equal in the matter of growth to the Chinese elm in one of its belts.

The shelterbelt in question was planted in early April, and an inspection in June revealed the whole belt was growing very well, but one Chinese elm had reached a height of five feet. By July 12, that tree had passed the six-foot mark.

We have several other trees of which we're proud, but we won't tell about them until (and if) we should be pressed to retain our status of having the record tree growth for the Region.

- Fred R. Yaruss, Okla.

SUCH COOPERATORS ARE ENTITLED TO HALOS

In our work, as in all joint enterprises, the term "cooperation" has different meanings to different people. On one extreme are those who regard cooperation as a means of profiting from someone else's work in return for the minimum amount of effort on their own part. On the other extreme are those who consider cooperation to be true mutual helpfulness, grateful for the help extended to them and themselves wholeheartedly working for the success of the co-operative venture.

John Speck of Rice County, Kansas, belongs to the latter class, with the other members of his community, but he stands apart even there. The shelter-belt cooperators in that community gave each other a hand in preparing the land for planting, and among them there developed a friendly rivalry as to who could care for his shelterbelt best and obtain the best results. The rivalry continued throughout the summer, the shelterbelts having been cultivated eight to ten times, hoed and kept immaculate. Each farmer maintained a careful inspection of the other shelterbelts, patrolling them regularly and offering criticism and suggestions as the need arose.

While he was on one of those "inspections" just after a recent rainy spell, Mr. Speck was alarmed to find a large lake formed by water trapped in a neighbor's shelterbelt. The owner was on a trip, and his son was just starting, so Mr. Speck hurried home for a spade and then spent two hours cutting a ditch and draining the lake. He returned the next day to complete the job, and the trees were saved.

Mr. Speck's action gives his neighbor the advantage when survival is compared, but my hat is off to him for his fine example of the Golden Rule's application.

- Ted Stebbins, Kans.

INFLUENCE MEASUREMENTS SHOW TREE BENEFITS

The following is a resume of evidences of crop benefit due to shelter-belt protection as measured in the "Crop Influence" study during 1938.

Influence in each case was determined by obtaining samples of the crop at different replicated distances from the shelterbelt. This was repeated on numerous fields. By comparing the yield at the various positions on each field a measure of the extent and degree of influence is derived. Naturally, fields were chosen for measurement that presented the most perfectly uniform growth conditions throughout their areas.

All measurements were made on fields adjacent to old existing shelterbelts. In many cases these belts were very ineffective as far as mechanical protection to wind is concerned due to their open, senile condition. Yield values given in the table below are computed to be that yield on the average field adjacent to the length of a half-mile average shelterbelt. The field is computed to extend to the outside row of the shelterbelt so that any loss in yield near the trees is accounted for.

The following table gives pertinent facts concerning influence on corn and wheat yields in Nebraska and South Dakota in 1938. Much of the benefit to corn is thought to be due to protection from hot southeasterly winds that occurred during early August of that year. Benefit to wheat is probably due

chiefly to the additional moisture furnished by the accumulation of snow near the shelterbelts. Net benefit is harmful effect subtracted from beneficial effect of the shelterbelts.

Grain quality as reflected by test weight in the case of wheat was several pounds better on the most intensively protected portions of the fields.

Influence measured in the case of corn fields to the north of shelterbelts in Nebraska was tested statistically and found to be significant.

The above instances of benefit should be substantial evidence that the average shelterbelt during 1938 was of material value to the farmer in those localities where measurements were made.

- W. E. Barnes, R.O.

GOVERNOR SPEAKS FOR PROJECT

The Governor of South Dakota, Harlan Bushfield, is really interested in the program of the Prairie States Forestry Project. His enthusiasm is indicated in the following excerpt of a letter to the Director of Extension of that State, which was referred to State Director Ford of the PSFP:

"I have been so completely sold upon the shelterbelt situation and the reforestation of our farms that I would like to start a campaign bringing publicity to bear upon this activity. I believe the shelterbelt project should be extended into every county in the State. I will appreciate it if you will take it up with Mr. Ford with the particular view of getting it started in my home county of Hand, but I am interested in it from a state-wide viewpoint and believe that if we could coordinate our efforts, we could interest the public in it to such an extent that we could make a tremendous showing in the next four or five years."

Hand county already has been included in the 1940 planting area.

- H. J. Swan, R. O.

*Comparison of the belt with a solid leafy barrier

State	Crop	fields of	Number of fields in average	*Average density of shelter-belts %	Average width of shelter-belts Ft.	Average height of belts Ft.	Average extent of influence "H" Ft.	Area influenced acres	Average yields on total area	Average yield on unprotected portion of field Bushels/Acre	Point of max. yield Bu/A	Average net benefit bushels		
Nebr.	Corn	North	10	86	275	49	10.5	515	31.2	37	31.22	2	52.2	181
Nebr.	Corn	West	3	77	0 (single row)	38	11.5	437	26.5	49	47.71	3.5	52.5	40
S.Dak.	Corn	North	2	93	114	28	9	252	15.3	37	34.62	2	45.0	42
S.Dak.	Corn	West	4	89	95	34	12	408	24.7	26	23.63	3.5	32.5	65
S.Dak.	Wheat	North	5	84	177	31	10.5	326	19.7	15	12.12	1	19.8	49

CROSSING ACCIDENT STRIKES CLOSE TO HOME

One of the railroad crossing accidents in September struck close to home, September 7, when an automobile carrying Mr. and Mrs. Fred Eaton, Mr. Frank Eaton and two friends was struck near Lincoln, Illinois. Fred and Frank Eaton were killed outright and Mrs. Eaton was so seriously injured that there was slight hope for her life for several days. She still is at the Lincoln (Illinois) hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Eaton were the parents of Lucille Clark of the Regional Office and Harry Eaton of the Nebraska unit, and Frank Eaton was their uncle. The Plains Forester joins the rest of the Project in extending their sincere sympathy to Lucille and Harry.

- H. J. Swan, R. O.

WE ARE BECOMING KNOWN!

The Prairie States Forestry Project seems to be getting over a hump, for when I visited in several states as far east as Illinois, Wisconsin and Tennessee recently I found that we are receiving gratifying publicity in the newspapers in the surrounding states.

The people with whom I talked seemed much better informed about the Project than they were two years ago, and the ideas instilled by the wild newspaper stories of 1935-6 appear to have been replaced by correct conceptions about where, how and why our work is being carried on.

Also, I found that many of the men in the National Forest staffs who were decidedly hazy on the subject two years ago are now well informed and keenly interested in the accomplishments, while one old-timer in northeastern Minnesota knew all about Mr. Silcox's report on the Project and wanted to hear more about the species, growth, spacing and benefits farmers have reported arising from the shelterbelts. He had a generally accurate mental picture of the work.

Informing the public accurately is a long job, and overriding the public's impressions is an even more tedious and discouraging task, and it is refreshing to find that the publicity today much more nearly tells the true story than it did formerly. In my opinion, one should go out and explore results once and a while; he will come back with more determination to go farther, whatever the task may be.

- Claude S. Asp, Okla.

FROM THE EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

This issue of the Plains Forester is a double-up affair (August and September combined) because of the vacation scramble.

* * *

Ed Perry and Dave Olson have given the Project's nut crackers a real tough-shelled nut to work on!

Ed, in a recent "memorandum for consideration," reminisced that the term "lands negotiation" is a toss-back to the Project's Neanderthal Age, when we were confronted with a "land acquisition" problem. With the change in procedure to one of cooperation, "lands negotiation" was seized upon, Ed says,

because we were still dickering with farmers for planting sites. He thinks the time has arrived to discard "lands negotiation" for a term more indicative of what we actually are doing.

Dave responded with the information that he and his cohorts had the same idea when the new Timber Management Handbook was being written, but gave up in despair. Now, he says: "I think possibly our difficulty has been in attempting to include the whole field of work that has been handled under this designation. As we visualize that work, it involves the public relations angle to interest people in submitting applications, the actual applications for the work itself, arrangements made with the farmers to meet various requirements, educational work that will better post him on the part he is to play in the joint undertaking, site selection, ground preparation, and so on."

Dave suggests that the whole Project take a hand in trying to find a satisfactory new term, and Ed agrees. So there you are -- hurry up, too, so that we may have a new terminology settled by the time the Project will wish to use it.

* * *

Here's one that Sid Burton has trouble believing, even though he tells it himself, cites witnesses, and sticks to his story vehemently!

Sid was inspecting South Dakota shelterbelts recently, when he came upon one near Mitchell which had been cultivated between the rows, but meticulous care in the rows was notable because of its absence, and in one of the rows were supposed to be some bur oak from direct seeding. Sid found the young oak trees and says that as far back as he followed the row survival was very high. It's the growth that surprises, though, and Sid asserts that the current year's increment for those bur oak trees was 40 inches in height.

* * *

Quite a number of the Regional Office staff have been on vacation, others are on vacation, and still others will go on vacation -- they hope!

Olive Peterson of Fiscal Control returned early in August to learn to her disappointment that her letters telling of the nice, cool evenings in the Northland (North Dakota and Minnesota) had caused no ripple at Lincoln this year.

Bob Bennett, also of Fiscal Control, took lots of gasoline, Mrs. Bennett and their young son in his automobile for an extended visit to old California stamping grounds. They had a fine time, but Bob says: "Oh, what grandparents can do to an 18-months old baby."

Ed Perry had a fishing trip lined up, but he bought new golf clubs. Anyway, he and the Mrs. and their two children spent a couple of weeks at a Minnesota lake. The rest of the family caught only fish, but Ed! -- Well, the barber has to detour around his upper lip nowadays.

Dave Olson and his family were in the Northwest, at least part of their time being spent at Placid Lake near their former home, Missoula, Montana.

Dave has an excellent reputation as a forest fire fighter, and we hope that he didn't get tangled up with any one of the many fires which have plagued Region One this year.

So far, Director Roberts has been able to take off enough time to drive the family car to Albuquerque, New Mexico, so that Mrs. Roberts and their son could spend a few weeks with friends and relatives. Then Paul had to hustle away pronto to join a Department of Agriculture tour, which ended at Flagstaff, Arizona. On the way back, he picked up his family again.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Hurren (they used to be Elmer Hurren of Fiscal Control and Loretta Nobles of Operation) have been honeymooning all over the East. They are back now and we're hearing more than just "Oh, everything is so wonderful!"

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Engstrom started bravely in July for a trip to the West coast, leaving their two little boys with Mrs. Engstrom's parents in Minnesota. They got to the coast, all right, but the big point is that two little boys may be awful pests but one gets mighty lonesome for them in a short time.

And then, on the 15th of August, Mr. and Mrs. William Ihlanfeldt and their children left for a vacation stay in Wyoming.

Beulah Bowen of Fiscal Control is back from a delightful eastern tour, taking in everything in the vicinity of Washington, D. C., including a big boat ride. -And she didn't get seasick at all!

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There is nothing more satisfying to a Forest Service officer -- or anyone else, for that matter -- than to hand another person a pleasant surprise, and most pleasant of all is to "knock the eyes out" of one who feels beforehand that he has a pretty fair knowledge of what this Project has done. Earle Thomas, district officer at Valley City, North Dakota, was doubly pleased then when he took Ed C. Duffy, a Valley City garage owner, to see some 1936, 1938 and 1939 shelterbelts in that vicinity. "Duffy," Earle reports, "was astonished at the progress which has been made, and remarked that of all programs this one should be continued. He could not resist comparing our plantings with those made by his father and other ancestors in his native country, Ireland."

As we recollect, trees grow rather well in Ireland.

* * *

Dave Olson and Sid Burton had their annual stake match on the golf course, the stake being a street car slug good for one passage on a Lincoln bus or street car or perhaps in a pinch for one telephone call. Sid has the honor, but he asserts that Dave has the car slug; Dave's contention, on the other hand, is that there is no sense in subjecting the slug to further abrasion by passing it from one pocket to another any more. You see, the slug is pretty well worn, what with its frequent change in ownership as Dave and Sid have golfed and bowled for possession of the trophy these past several years. But about that golf match; each felt confident beforehand, but Sid spoke loudest and Dave got the handicap. If the score card tells the whole story, Dave needed the strokes he was given, all right, and a few more would have come in right handy.

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"What about those field windbreaks," is the question everyone seems to be asking in the mid-west, is the report of Wyman Smith of the Washington I & E office as recounted in the Washington Office Information Digest of August 7. Smith had just returned from a trip through the mid-west. The Digest story says further:

"Mr. Smith says that people in all walks of life apparently are interested in knowing the details about the Prairie States Forestry Project in addition to what they have read in the press. He says that their questions showed unusually careful consideration of the idea of field windbreaks. The Extension Editor of Colorado State College of Agriculture said that his state, which is not in the zone of field windbreak planting, could use to advantage thousands of miles of windbreaks."

* * *

We have on our desk an interesting little booklet which carries the program for the 4-H Conservation Camp at Sheyenne River Park, North Dakota, August 2 to 6. The youngsters certainly had a full conservation program to digest, and the North Dakota PSFP staff had its finger in the pie clear up to the elbow. Specifically, the 4-H Club party spent nearly four hours at the Enderlin Nursery where Nurseryman Thomas C. Hutchinson could cast his spell over them, on the afternoon of August 4, and that evening Auburn Coe, senior biologist, gave a talk "Conservation As I See It."

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PERSONNEL NOTES

L. S. Matthew and S. S. Burton exchanged positions about the first of September, Matthew taking Burton's place in the Division of Timber Management in the Regional Office, and Burton assuming the staff position with the Nebraska unit which Matthew formerly held. The Regional Office personnel was sorry to see Mr. and Mrs. Burton and their family leave our circle, but we welcome Mr. and Mrs. Matthew and their new son with open arms.

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John Hall, who had been in the Division of Fiscal Control on a year's assignment on the centralized accounting experiment, has returned to Manhattan, Kansas. He moved his family the latter part of August. The Regional Office personnel certainly enjoyed the presence of the Halls during their year's stay here.

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Alfred S. Ratcliff from the Jamestown office has assumed the position of assistant to the Purchasing Agent in the Division of Operation.

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Aubrey Arthurs is the new District Officer at Neligh, Nebraska, having transferred from Devils Lake, North Dakota, on September 1.

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Walter G. Dahms transferred from Hollis, Oklahoma, on September 1 to assume the position of subdistrict officer at Aberdeen, South Dakota.